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Country programme document for China

Proposed indicative UNFPA assistance:	$22.5 million: $15.0 million from regular resources and $7.5million through co-financing modalities and/or other resources, including regular resources
Programme period:	Five years (2016–2020)
Cycle of assistance:	Eighth
Category per decision 2013/31:	Pink

Proposed indicative assistance (in millions of $):

Strategic plan outcome areas		Regular resources	Other resources	Total
Outcome 1	Sexual and reproductive health	4.5	2.5	7.0
Outcome 2	Adolescents and youth	2.5	1.5	4.0
Outcome 3	Gender equality and women's empowerment	2.0	1.0	3.0
Outcome 4	Population dynamics	5.0	2.5	7.5
Programme coordination and assistance		1.0	–	1.0
Total		15.0	7.5	22.5

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I. Situation analysis

1. Despite the high economic growth achieved during the past decades, China is still the largest developing country. The growing socioeconomic influence of China is accompanied by a marked increase in trade, international cooperation and financial assistance to 121 countries. It has met most Millennium Development Goals but socioeconomic development has been uneven. China is still facing inequities among population groups, wide regional disparities, and pressures on its environment.

2. The population of China reached 1.36 billion in 2013. Its structure is changing rapidly. In 2013, young people aged 10-24 years were estimated at 272 million (20 per cent), and are projected to drop to 208 million (15 per cent) by 2050, with the fastest decrease (23 million) occurring between 2015 and 2020. Meanwhile, the elderly population (aged 65 years and above) will increase from 132 million (9 per cent) to 331 million (24 per cent). While the ratio between the population of aged 15-64 years and those over 64 years of age was about 9:1 in 2010, in 2050 it will be less than 3:1.

3. Population dynamics and their complex interactions with socioeconomic development and the environment have kept population issues at the top of the political agenda in China. The total fertility rate has been below replacement level for more than two decades, due to strict adherence to the fertility policy and rapid socioeconomic change. The 2010 census reported a total fertility rate of 1.18; the actual rate is closer to 1.45 due to underreporting of live births. In November 2013, policy guidance was issued to adjust fertility regulations, allowing more couples to have up to two children.

4. Changing age and sex structures – due to longstanding low total fertility rates and a skewed sex ratio at birth (116 boys to 100 girls in 2014), as well as increasing longevity, rapidly changing population distribution, urbanization and migration flows – are transforming Chinese society. Ageing will have a strong impact on the economy and society at large, calling for a wide range of social security policies in response to the challenges and opportunities this entails, including promotion of intergenerational solidarity and equity. Similarly, the longstanding skewed sex ratio at birth is affecting society at large, leaving an estimated 30 million young men as involuntary bachelors by 2030.

5. Urbanization and changing patterns of consumption and production have put considerable strain on the environment, with pollution and climate change affecting people's well-being and livelihoods. Over half of the population (780 million) now lives in urban areas (one billion by 2030). The internal migrant population reached 245 million in 2013. Almost as many elderly and children are "left behind" in rural households, often facing adversity and poverty due to weakening family support and still incipient social protection systems. At birth, a person's registration depends on the household registration, or ***hukou***, of one of the parents. One's ***hukou*** gives access to the public services offered in the location of registration. Most migrants (84 per cent live and work in urban areas), in particular young women, are therefore not able to access basic social services, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services.

6. The contraceptive prevalence rate is 87.9 per cent, and the Government promotes informed choice of contraceptive methods. Current usage is characterized primarily by the use of long-acting reversible contraceptive methods, such as intra-uterine devices or permanent methods, such as female sterilization, complemented by other modern methods of contraception. The maternal mortality ratio decreased from 94.7 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 23.2 per 100,000 live births in 2013. While substantive progress was made, some gaps still remain in key areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The proportion of deliveries by caesarean section is among the world's highest, at 46 per cent. An estimated 13 million abortions occur annually, about half of which are among youth. Reproductive cancers are frequent causes of mortality for women, and breast cancer is the most common cancer. Incidence of certain sexually transmitted infections (STIs), like syphilis, is rising. While

overall HIV prevalence is low, it is increasing among young people and some key populations. In March 2013, the Ministry of Health and the National Population and Family Planning Commission merged. While integration of family planning and other SRH services has started, progress at provincial and municipal levels has been uneven. In addition, a comprehensive SRHR policy framework is still lacking.

7. Young people's access to life skills-based education and high-quality youth-friendly SRHR services is limited. This affects unmarried youth. Two in three unmarried youth stated that sex before marriage is acceptable; 22 per cent of female youth reported having had sex, 21 per cent of whom had unplanned pregnancies, with 91 per cent ending in abortions. In their transition into adulthood, youth often experience peer pressure and gender-based violence. Thus far, no comprehensive youth policy framework exists.

8. Despite progress in tackling gender inequality, gender-based violence and discrimination are still prevalent. On average, women tend to earn significantly less than men in comparable positions. Women in urban areas earn 67.3 percent of men's average annual income while rural women earn 56 percent of men's average annual income. Strong 'son preference' has led to gender-biased sex selection, resulting in persistently highly skewed sex ratio at birth. Reportedly one-fourth of married Chinese women experienced domestic violence. In response, a national family violence law has been drafted. A national multisectoral mechanism to address gender-based violence is not yet in place and mechanisms to address sexual violence need to be further strengthened.

9. China has strong institutional and professional capacity, and generates considerable essential socioeconomic, demographic and environmental data. However, data is scattered and lacks consistency as it is organized on a sectoral basis, making it difficult to access. Better availability of, and access to, disaggregated and consistent data is needed to identify inequities and their causes, including causes of discrimination, such as sex, age, rural or urban setting, household registration (*hukou*), ethnicity or disability.

II. Past cooperation and lessons learned

10. Under the previous country programme, UNFPA contributed to (a) promoting rights-based approaches in delivery of SRH services and increased awareness of client rights, including for vulnerable groups; (b) strengthening mechanisms to respond to gender-based violence and prevent discrimination against women and girls; (c) greater use of socio-demographic data and research for evidence-based policy making in SRH and population and development.

11. An independent 2014 evaluation of the country programme acknowledged the strong partnerships and the important contribution of UNFPA to strategic thinking on population and development. It highlighted a number of key achievements: (a) improved provincial regulations promoting informed choice and a rights-based approach to family planning; (b) better access to SRH information and services among women, youth and vulnerable groups, including in emergencies; (c) increased capacity for generating sex-disaggregated socio-demographic data and its use for policymaking, including on urbanization and ageing; (d) successful pilot of a multisectoral coordination mechanism to address gender-based violence; and (e) successful implementation of community-based models to revise customary laws favouring sons.

12. The evaluation recommended that the programme (a) remain highly adaptive and responsive to the evolving situation in China and its emerging role as a global player; (b) continue to lead strategic thinking on SRHR and population dynamics; (c) pursue South-South cooperation opportunities in all programme areas; (d) strengthen the capacity of the country office for evidence-based advocacy, policy advisory services and South-South cooperation; (e) improve coherence and integration between UNFPA programme areas and focus on fewer locations where local governments have the will, ability and resources to collaborate; (f) strengthen capacity for strategic communication, technical assistance and

quality assurance of research; and (g) deepen and expand partnerships with national-level partners, local governments and the private sector.

III. Proposed programme

13. The programme is aligned with national priorities, as outlined in the Third Plenum of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on which the next Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development (2016-2020) will build. The programme contributes to the four outcomes of the UNFPA Strategic Plan, 2014-2017, and is aligned with its business model. Likewise, it contributes to the three outcomes of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2016-2020. The programme was developed in close consultation with the Government, civil society, academia, United Nations organizations and other partners. UNFPA will engage with these partners and other stakeholders, including youth and populations in vulnerable situations, at national level and in selected provinces, counties and cities, in the design and implementation of the programme interventions.

14. The programme advocates for full alignment of China with the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Violence against Women, and contributes to the post-2015 development agenda. It adopts a gender-sensitive and rights-based approach and focuses on advocacy and policy advisory services as prime modes of engagement to address inequities affecting migrants, marginalized adolescents and youth, women, the elderly and other population groups in vulnerable situations. Building on previous knowledge-generation initiatives, UNFPA will work with relevant national and subnational partners to showcase successful subnational experiences as a tool for enabling provincial and national policy change.

15. Building on its comparative advantage as a broker of international technical expertise and facilitator of international cooperation and knowledge exchange, UNFPA will support China in global policy dialogue, using innovative ways to promote knowledge-sharing initiatives to advance the ICPD agenda. International cooperation initiatives (including South-South cooperation, particularly with African countries) will be a consideration under each outcome area, but specifically outcomes 1 and 4.

A. Outcome 1: Sexual and reproductive health

16. Output 1: Strengthened policy environment to advance universal access to integrated, rights-based and gender-sensitive SRH services. Given China's considerable size and resources, while also recognizing uneven development and inequities within the country, UNFPA will primarily utilize policy engagement, advocacy, technical assistance and South-South cooperation modalities to support improved SRH outcomes at subnational, national and global levels. In particular, the programme will (a) advocate for a rights-based family planning policy in full alignment with the ICPD; (b) support the development of a rights-based and gender-sensitive SRH policy framework to enable delivery of comprehensive SRH services, including during emergencies; (c) support the development of policies establishing midwifery as a medical profession, to increase acceptance of natural deliveries and reduce the high rate of caesarean sections when not medically indicated; and (d) support the incorporation of SRH and reproductive health commodity security, including in humanitarian settings, within the global policy engagement and the international cooperation agenda of China, particularly with Africa.

B. Outcome 2: Adolescents and youth

17. Output 1: Increased commitment by duty bearers to address young people's rights and needs in national and subnational policies and programmes, in particular on life skills-based and SRH services for unmarried and marginalized youth. The programme will advocate for investment by China in young people, focusing on rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive life skills-based education and SRH services, with the aim to prevent unintended pregnancies and

abortions, HIV, STIs and gender-based violence. Special attention will be given to innovative platforms to reach out and involve young Chinese around these issues, both in China and abroad. In particular, the programme will (a) involve youth to advocate for evidence-based youth policies and programmes and increased investment in young people at national and subnational levels, including in-school and out-of-school life skills-based education and youth-friendly SRH services; (b) provide advisory services to selected cities to devise youth policies and programmes that include life skills-based education and provision of youth-friendly SRH services; and (c) support development of national guidelines on youth-friendly SRH services, in particular for unmarried and marginalized youth, such as urban migrant and rural 'left behind' youth.

C. Outcome 3: Gender equality and women's empowerment

18. Output 1: Enhanced policy environment in selected provinces, cities and counties to promote positive norm change to address gender discrimination, gender-based violence and harmful practices, such as gender-biased sex selection. The programme will provide policy solutions and technical assistance to affect gender norm change, advocate for advancement of reproductive rights and prevention of gender-based violence and harmful practices, including through civil society engagement, knowledge exchange and international cooperation. In particular, it will (a) support the development of action plans, in selected provinces, to implement family violence legislation and institutionalize previously piloted multisectoral coordination mechanisms to address gender-based violence; and (b) work with civil society and community-based organizations in selected cities and counties to engage men and boys in the prevention of gender-based violence and to support the revision of customary laws discriminating against women.

D. Outcome 4: Population dynamics

19. Output 1: Increased use of evidence-based analyses of population dynamics for the development of rights-based national and subnational policies, strategies and plans targeting young people, women, the elderly and populations in vulnerable situations. The programme will advocate for accurate and timely data for development; conduct policy research; and promote knowledge exchange and international cooperation in the area of population dynamics, and its linkages with sustainable development, SRH, gender and youth. Special attention will be given to ageing and urbanization. Interventions will provide a solid evidence base for the proposed advocacy and policy engagement reflected under each outcome area in the country programme. In particular, the programme will (a) engage in policy dialogue to promote reliable and accessible age and sex-disaggregated data on population dynamics, SRH, youth, gender and the environment; (b) promote knowledge exchange and international cooperation on innovative approaches to generate socio-demographic information for sustainable development, including through the 2020 global round of censuses; (c) support development of national plans and related monitoring and evaluation frameworks, including promote equitable ageing; and (d) support selected cities in the development of their urban policies and plans to ensure equitable access to essential services, including SRH, among migrants, women, youth and the elderly.

IV. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation

20. UNFPA and the Government of China, through the Ministry of Commerce as the coordinating entity, will be jointly responsible for management of the programme, and will plan, monitor and evaluate programme implementation in accordance with UNFPA guidelines and procedures, using a results-based management approach and corresponding accountability frameworks. UNFPA will foster strategic partnerships with national and local government entities, civil society, academia, the private sector, the media and international partners. It will do so through executive dialogues, multi-stakeholders' consultative groups, seminars and other

platforms. The programme will be implemented using national and direct execution modalities. UNFPA will select implementing partners based on their relevance to the programme and their capacity for high-quality implementation. UNFPA will continue to coordinate its activities with other United Nations organizations, and actively participate in joint activities, theme groups and UNDAF high-level review meetings. A resource mobilization strategy will be developed together with strategic partners in order to leverage additional resources.

21. The country office includes staff performing management and development effectiveness functions funded through the UNFPA institutional budget. The organization will earmark the required programme funds to ensure adequate country office capacity and skills for technical and policy advisory services, advocacy and strategic communication. The regional office, UNFPA headquarters divisions and external partners will provide additional technical, operational and programme support.

RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR CHINA (2016-2020)

National priority: Social fairness, justice and improvement of people's lives; harmonious development between people and nature; and mutually-beneficial international cooperation
UNDAF outcome: Reduction of poverty and equitable development; improved and sustainable environment; and enhanced global engagement

UNFPA strategic plan outcome	Country programme outputs	Output indicators, baselines and targets	Partners	Indicative resources
Outcome 1: Sexual and reproductive health Increased availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, maternal health and HIV prevention programmes, that are gender-responsive and meet human rights standards for quality of care and equity in access Outcome indicator(s): • National protocols for family planning services that meet human rights standards, including freedom from discrimination, coercion and violence, implemented *Baseline: No; Target: Yes*	Output 1: Strengthened policy environment to advance universal access to integrated, rights-based and gender-sensitive SRH services	• Existence of a comprehensive, rights-based, age and gender-sensitive national SRH policy framework *Baseline: No; Target: Yes* • Number of provinces that have developed and implemented an integrated SRH service delivery system in line with the ICPD *Baseline: 0; Target: 2* • National policy framework establishing midwifery as a medical profession adopted *Baseline: No; Target: Yes* • Number of international cooperation initiatives on SRH brokered by UNFPA *Baseline: 0; Target: 4*	Ministry of Commerce; National Health and Family Planning Commission; National Development and Reform Commission; All-China Women's Federation; China Maternal and Child Health Association; other civil society entities; United Nations organizations; other international organizations; academia; the private sector; the media	$7.0 million ($4.5 million from regular resources and $2.5 million from other resources)
Outcome 2: Adolescents and youth Increased priority on adolescents and youth, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education and SRH Outcome indicator(s): Laws and policies that allow adolescents (regardless of marital status) access to SRH services exist *Baseline: No; Target: Yes*	Output 1: Increased commitment by duty bearers to address young people's rights and needs in national and subnational policies and programmes, in particular on life skills-based education and SRH services for unmarried and marginalized youth	• Number of provinces with participatory platforms that advocate for evidence-based youth policies and increased investments in young people, in particular unmarried and marginalized adolescents and youth *Baseline: 0; Target: 3* • Number of cities that are implementing youth programmes, including life skills-based education in line with international standards *Baseline: 0; Target: 6* • National guidelines for youth-friendly and rights-based SRH services in line with international standards adopted *Baseline: No; Target: Yes*	National Working Commission on Children and Women; National Health and Family Planning Commission; China Family Planning Association; China Youth Network; other civil society entities; United Nations organizations; international organizations; academia; the private sector; the media	$4.0 million ($2.5 million from regular resources and $1.5 million from other resources)

Outcome 3: Gender equality and women's empowerment Advanced gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth Outcome indicator(s): • Gender equality national action plans in place that integrate reproductive rights with specific targets and national public budget allocation *Baseline: No; Target: Yes*	Output 1: Enhanced policy environment in selected provinces, cities and counties to promote positive norm change to address gender discrimination, gender-based violence and harmful practices, such as gender-biased sex selection	• Number of provinces that support the implementation of multisectoral coordination mechanisms in response to gender-based violence *Baseline: 0; Target: 3* • Existence of provincial action plans to scale up successful community-based governance models that address the root causes of gender-biased sex selection *Baseline: 0; Target: 2* • Number of cities and counties where gender-based violence prevention programmes involving men and boys are implemented with the support of civil society organizations *Baseline: 1; Target: 3*	National Working Commission on Children and Women; All-China Women's Federation; National Health and Family Planning Commission; academia; civil society entities; United Nations organizations; the private sector; the media; international organizations	$3.0 million ($2.0 million from regular resources and $1.0 million from other resources)
Outcome 4: Population dynamics Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through increasing international cooperation and by integrating evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality Outcome indicator(s): • Number of new national development plans that address population dynamics by accounting for population trends and projections in setting development targets *Baseline: N/A; Target: 4*	Output 1: Increased use of evidence-based analyses of population dynamics for the development of rights-based national and subnational policies, strategies and plans targeting young people, women, the elderly and populations in vulnerable situations	• Number of nationally representative socio-demographic databases that are up to date and easily accessible, to facilitate mapping of socio-economic and demographic inequalities *Baseline: 1; Target: 3;* • Number of national plans developed on population and development-related issues (youth, SRHR and ageing) informed by evidence-based analysis of population dynamics *Baseline: 2; Target: 5* • Number of cities that have developed plans to ensure equitable access to essential services, including SRH services, among vulnerable populations (migrants, youth and the elderly) *Baseline: 2; Target: 4* • Number of international cooperation initiatives, including knowledge sharing platforms, on population dynamics and sustainable development brokered by UNFPA *Baseline: 1; Target: 4*	National Development and Reform Commission; National Bureau of Statistics; National Health and Family Planning Commission; China National Committee on Ageing; China Population Association; United Nations organizations; other international organizations; academia; the private sector; the media	$7.5 million ($5.0 million from regular resources and $2.5 million from other resources) Total for programme coordination and assistance: $1.0 million from regular resources